

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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P R 041535Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6243
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 2048

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S REACTION TO MAKARIOS' DEATH

SUMMARY: TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON TAKES POSITION THAT ELECTION
OF NEW PRESIDENT IS MATTER OF GREEK CYPRIOT INTERNAL
CONCERN. HE ALSO NOTES THAT NEITHER TURKEY NOR "TFSC" WILL
ACCEPT THE WINNER OF THE ELECTION AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC, BUT ONLY AS THE LEADER OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY.
HE HOPES THAT NEITHER US NOR OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES WILL ATTEMPT
TO INFLUENCE ELECTION. HE BELIEVES THERE WILL BE LITTLE PROGRESS
IN INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS AND SEES PAPADOPOULOS MANDATE AS
ENDED. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE CALLED ON TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON AUG 3 TO DISCUSS
REACTIONS TO ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS' DEATH. ONHON SAID ON
AUG 3 HE HAD CONVENED A MEETING, INCLUDING DENKTASH,
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LT.GEN. SAGLAM, KONUK, OREK AND CHELIK TO DISCUSS
EFFECTS OF THE DEATH ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS. ALL CONCURRED
THAT MAKARIOS' PASSING MARKS THE END OF AN ERA FOR CYPRUS.
MAKARIOS HAD BEEN A SYMBOL OF CYPRUS AND HIS OWN PERSONALITY
HAD SHAPED MUCH OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BOTH IN TERMS OF RELATION-
SHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES AND IN CYPRUS' ROLE IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THIS WOULD NOW BE FINISHED AND CYPRUS

COULD ASSUME A MORE APPROPRIATE POSITION AMONG WORLD PROBLEMS WITH LESS INTERNATIONAL INTEREST.

2. IN THE AUG 3 MEETING ONHON URGED TURK CYPRIOT LEADERS NOT TO REACT WITH FLAMBOYANT STATEMENTS. HE SUGGESTED THEY CHARACTERIZE MAKARIOS' DEATH AS AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY. HE CONCURRED IN THEIR VIEW THAT THE EVENTUAL WINNER OF AN ELECTION WOULD HAVE NO LEGAL STATUS AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS BECAUSE THE ELECTION WOULD BE CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 1960 CONSTITUTION. HE MADE NO OBJECTION TO TURK CYPRIOT USE OF THIS POINT BUT RECOMMENDED THAT ANY STATEMENTS BE LOW KEY IN TONE WITH A MINIMUM OF SUBSTANCE.

3. ONHON HAD CALLED GOT FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL AUG 3 TO MAKE PLEA FOR CAUTIOUS REACTION AND WON LATTER'S AGREEMENT THAT GOT WOULD ALSO RESPOND TO THE SITUATION WITH MINIMUM PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

4. ONHON'S OWN EVALUATION WAS:

A. THE DEATH OF MAKARIOS WILL BE HELPFUL IN THAT ANY SUCCESSOR WILL NOT HAVE THE ARCHBISHOP'S WORLD STATURE. THIS MEANS THE SUCCESSOR WILL BE MORE EQUAL TO DENKTASH IN FACT IF NOT IN LEGAL RECOGNITION. THIS SHOULD BE A POSITIVE FACTOR IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES.

B. LOOKED AT FROM A PURELY LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, HE SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NEW GREEK CYPRIOT LEADER WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO CALL HIMSELF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE CONSTITUTION SHOWS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY TO ELECT A PRESIDENT OF THE ENTIRE REPUBLIC. THEREFORE, THE GOT, IF IT FOLLOWS HIS RECOMMENDATION, WILL NOT RECOGNIZE THE GOC AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS AND WILL TAKE EVERY STEP TO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOLLOW THE SAME POLICY. CHARGE NOTED IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT MANY, IF ANY, COUNTRIES WILL STOP RECOGNIZING GOC BECAUSE OF CHANGE OF LEADERS AND NORMAL MECHANICS OF DOING BUSINESS WITH CYPRUS WILL REQUIRE ACCREDITATION BY GOC, SIGNATURE OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WITH GOC, AND OTHER FORMS OF RECOGNITION. ONHON SAID HE WAS ONLY STATING FACTS; HE UNDERSTOOD EACH COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE ITS OWN DECISION ON THE LEGALITY OF THE NEW GREEK ADMINISTRATION.

5. ON THE SUCCESSION ITSELF, ONHON TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. HE SAID US POLICY IN THIS REGARD WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT AND IMPLIED US SHOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY CANDIDATE. TO DO SO WOULD BE TO INVITE THE SOVIET UNION TO BECOME INTERESTED IN THE SUCCESSION AND COULD WELL MAKE THE ELECTION INTO AN EAST-WEST CONTEST.

HE SAID IF THE US FEELS IT MUST SUPPORT CLERIDES, MOSCOW WILL HAVE TO GIVE ORDERS TO AKEL TO OPPOSE. (CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT IN RECENT TURKISH ELECTIONS US HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF SUPPORTING ONE CANDIDATE OR THE OTHER AT VARIOUS TIMES. NONE OF THE ACCUSATIONS WAS TRUE. IT WAS LIKELY WE WOULD FOLLOW THE SAME POLICY IN THE CASE OF THE GOC ELECTION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 2048

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

6. ONHON WAS GLOOMY ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS. IT WAS CLEAR, HE SAID, THERE IS NO PURPOSE TO BE SERVED IN EARLY MEETINGS BECAUSE THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WOULD HAVE NO COHERENT POLICY DURING THE PERIOD OF STRUGGLE FOR SUCCESSION. EVEN AFTER THAT, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR A NEW LEADER TO DEVELOP POLICY ON RELATIONS WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY. ON ANOTHER LEGAL POINT, HE NOTED THAT PAPADOPOULOS HAD BEEN "APPOINTED" AS NEGOTIATOR IN THE FEB 12 DENKTASH/MAKARIOS MEETING. WITH MAKARIOS' DEATH, THE PAPADOPULOS MANDATE BECAME INVALID. THEREFORE, THE NEW GREEK CYPRIOT LEADER WOULD HAVE TO NOMINATE A NEW NEGOTIATOR AND THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN ONAN MEETING WITH PAPADOPOULOS IN THE INTERIM. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT PAPADOP- OULOS HAD BEEN THE GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR BEFORE MAKARIOS, DENKTASH MEETINGS. IT WOULD SEEM HE REPRESENTED THE COMMUNITY,

NOT MAKARIOS. FURTHERMORE, DECISIONS ON NEGOTIATING POSITIONS
WERE MADE BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL/COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHOSE
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COMPOSITION HAD NOT CHANGED TO DATE. THEREFORE, IT
WOULD NOT SEEM TO BE OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR THE TWO NEGOTIATORS
TO CONTINUE TO MEET. ONHON DID NOT RESPOND TO THIS POINT.

7. THROUGHOUT ENTIRE CONVERSATION, ONHON STRESSED THAT COMMENTS
WERE HIS OWN. HE HAD TRANSMITTED HIS EVALUATION AND
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ANKARA BUT WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THEY WOULD
BE ACCEPTED. HE MADE NO COMMENTS ABOUT US ROLE IN CYPRUS
PROBLEM EXCEPT HIS PLEA TO AVOID INTERFERENCE IN GREEK
CYPRIOT ELECTION. GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT HE THOUGHT
IN THE LONG RUN MAKARIOS' DEATH COULD BE A POSITIVE
FACTOR IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES.
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Message Attributes

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